UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Christopher Smith,	: : Civil Action No.:
Plaintiff, v.	· : :
United Adjustment Corporation; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
Defendants.	: : :

COMPLAINT & JURY DEMAND

For this Complaint, Plaintiff, Christopher Smith, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* (the "FDCPA").
- 2. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff, Christopher Smith ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Lansing, Michigan, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 4. Defendant United Adjustment Corporation ("United"), is a Indiana business entity with an address of 218 North 3rd Street, Kentland, Indiana 47951, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

- 5. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by United and whose identities are currently unknown to Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
 - 6. United at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

- 7. Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to an original creditor (the "Creditor").
- 8. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes, which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 9. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to United for collection, or United was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 10. Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. United Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 11. In August 2016, Plaintiff spoke with United and was told that his credit score would increase by 70 points if he made a payment toward the Debt by August 12, 2016.
- 12. Plaintiff made a payment as instructed, but his credit score did not increase as promised.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

13. Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct.

14. As a direct consequence of Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

<u>COUNT I</u> <u>VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.</u>

- 15. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 16. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e in that Defendants used false, deceptive and/or misleading representations or means in connection with collection of the Debt.
- 17. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect the Debt.
- 18. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f in that Defendants used unfair and unconscionable means to collect the Debt.
- 19. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA.
 - 20. Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendants:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- 2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
- Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
 § 1692k(a)(3);
- 4. Punitive damages; and
- 5. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: April 20, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

By: <u>/s/ Sergei Lemberg, Esq.</u>
Attorney for Plaintiff Christopher Smith LEMBERG LAW, L.L.C.
43 Danbury Road, 3rd Floor
Wilton, CT 06897

Telephone: (203) 653-2250 Facsimile: (888) 953-6237

Email: slemberg@lemberglaw.com